



ConnFACT

Families Against Chemical Trespass

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban , and members of the committee... my name is Beth Beisel and I am Executive Director of Connecticut Families Against Chemical Trespass, (ConnFACT.) ConnFACT is a grass-roots organization that relies on the power of people and social media to educate and advocate against the use of harmful chemicals, particularly when such chemicals impact children. Our mission is to help our citizens become aware of and reject the toxic chemicals they are unknowingly exposed to every day. Chemicals that contaminate the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. ConnFACT consists of many of the same individuals from GMO-Free CT, who last year successfully helped Connecticut pass the first-in-the-nation legislation to label foods containing genetically engineered ingredients.

As a representative of ConnFACT, as well as a mother of three children, I support Senate Bill 46 – An Act concerning pesticides on school grounds - ConnFACT supports any bill that serves to protect our children, and for that matter anyone who utilizes school grounds, from toxic chemicals.

A few weeks ago, I had no idea that the grass many parents sit on when they watch their children play various sports was potentially covered in chemicals. I never even thought about it. I didn't think about resting my hands on it and then eating something or the fact that our skin absorbs everything we touch. I didn't question if it was safe for my children to roll down the grassy hill or lie in the field at night to look at the stars. Until a few weeks ago, it just wasn't on my radar.

Once I learned about the current law, which covers schools from daycare through grade 8, I decided to look into what is sprayed on our town's high school grounds. These grounds are where my children and my friend's children have been playing sports since they were in kindergarten. These grounds are where we walk and let our dog run free. Last year, the following toxic chemicals were applied to the football, baseball, and field hockey/lacrosse fields: Dimension, and Acelepryn. Roundup was also sprayed under the bleachers – where young children love to play while their parents watch the older siblings sporting events. Round up is also sprayed along the wood line, where our dog always gravitates to.

We have been unknowingly exposed to toxic chemicals; and it may take 20-30 years to determine the effects of these chemicals on our bodies.

Attached is a link to an article that discusses safety testing. It describes how safety testing is flawed, because it only tests the one ingredient. i.e glyphosate, but when that ingredient

is mixed with adjuvants, which are classified as “inert” the mixture can be up to 1000 times stronger. (And to my knowledge, that mixture is not tested for safety.)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/weed-whacking-herbicide-p/>

By protecting the public’s health and moving this bill forward, you will protect children, parents, and animals from unknowing exposure to the detrimental effects of toxic chemicals.

Thank you for taking the time to review this important issue.